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# STRUGGLE★LA LUCHA

## for Socialism | por el Socialismo

Struggle-La-Lucha.org

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Socialist Unity Party

Partido de Socialismo Unido

# On International Women's Day Struggle against fascism

By Sharon Black

**O**n many holidays recognizing people's struggles and their leaders – for example, the civil rights movement and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. – the present-day celebrations are both sweet and sour.

The only reason for formal recognition is that protests and struggle made it so – and this is a victory. But the other, “give it the side-eye” part is that the actual history of how they originated is covered up in pink ribbons.

**Clara Zetkin**

el Día Internacional de la Mujer,  
ideas sobre el fascismo para hoy

The blood, sweat  
and tears that were  
shed have been  
washed away.

International Women's Day is like that. So much has been done to sterilize it, package it, market it, capitalism-it (my made up word) – foremost in the capitalist West, of which the U.S. is the capital.

But the beating heart behind all of the fancy images and representations is still strong, red and has the potential to change the world. Its red tail pokes out from under all of the corporate debris.

The courage of the Black women workers at Amazon's Bessemer, Ala., warehouse standing up to Jeff Bezos, one of the richest men in the

*Continued on page 13*



Wildfires across Carolinas

Ashes & military in Altadena



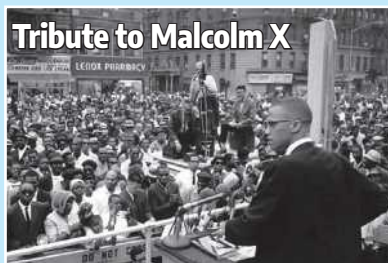
Vibrant Pride Day in DeLand

Aaron Bushnell protested genocide

Baltimore ❤️ Palestine

AFGE assault is on all workers

Black Reconstruction and Elon Musk



'French Connection' to CIA

Trump's NATO demands  
are tech billionaire priorities

U.S. sanctions on Russia and China







## A vibrant Pride Day in DeLand, Florida

By Sharon Black

DeLand, Florida, Feb. 15 — LGBTQIA+ community and supporters in Volusia County, Florida, resist bigotry, holding a vibrant Pride Day in DeLand's downtown. The Umbrella Brigade was one of the organizers for the national March to "Protect Trans Kids" in Orlando on Oct. 7, 2023. #



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This book aims to illuminate the growing dangers posed by a potential U.S. war against China and to reveal the real enemies of the working class.

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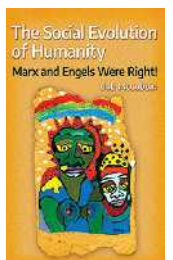


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Marx and Engels were right! by Bob McCubbin

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## After the flames

# Military vehicles and food tents signal Altadena's oppressed status

By Lev Koufax

I don't know how many people will read this article. As with so many things, we are at the mercy of the algorithm and the mainstream news cycle. Time goes on. Coverage fades. Interest wanes as corporate news outlets jump to the next story.

Because if we are allowed to look for too long, we might start to see the reality of the injustice, abandonment, and disinvestment that follow news of catastrophe. The current consciousness, or lack thereof, regarding the aftermath of the Palisades and Eaton fires, is a prime example of this phenomenon.

As usual with any crisis under capitalism, the news industrial complex saturates the airwaves and social media with harrowing stories of the destruction before inevitably declaring the crisis of the day to be over. As the homes of famous actors and millionaires burned throughout northern Los Angeles County, CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, CBS, ABC, and an army of freelance journalists at their behest kept the public painstakingly up to speed on the inferno's onslaught.

The corporate media seems united in its message now: The crisis is over — everyone can move on with their lives. That might be true for viewers or the millionaires who have second homes in Malibu. But what about the working-class Black and Brown people who lived in historic Altadena? Is the crisis over for them? Will they get a happy ending?

Recently, I spent time in the Altadena area delivering supplies to a local church and distributing the LA Harriet Tubman Center's people's program on fire relief. I normally don't write in first or second person as I am in this article. However, I am unable to find the words to describe the devastation I witnessed in historically Black and immigrant communities without speaking directly from my perspective. Frankly, I had mixed feelings writing about or documenting what I saw at all. Walking among all the destruction, two other examples of destruction in oppressed communities drifted into my mind.

First, I was instantly reminded of

National Guard troops in the Altadena neighborhood of Los Angeles in January 2025.

my experience walking through what used to be the vibrant "Black Wall Street" in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Over 100 years ago, a white terrorist mob launched a massive assault on Tulsa's thriving Black community. The racist mob targeted Black schools, businesses, churches, and any other Black community institution. The fires and violence left hundreds of Black residents dead and thousands displaced. In modern-day Tulsa, the Greenwood Rising History Center has marked the destruction of every Black business in 1920 with a plaque explaining the Black business or other building that once stood there.

This goes on for block after block — so much destruction born purely of Jim Crow apartheid and racism. While Altadena's destruction was not at the hands of a white terrorist mob, it's a different white terrorist mob that has refused and will continue to refuse to invest in Altadena's recovery. That mob is the predatory capitalist developers and landlords who will ratchet up rents and buy burned properties for pennies on the dollar. That mob is the local city and state governments that have already closed their limited shelters and donation drop-off locations.

For decades, the historically Black community of Altadena has survived racist redlining practices and thrived in the face of racism and economic inequality. Nonetheless, it seems the ruling class and its government are happy to allow Altadena to lie in ruins.

Second, the number of World Central Kitchen food distribution tents I saw immediately took my mind to the Gaza Strip, where the WCK has been one of the only semi-consistent food providers as the Zionist siege rages. It was not uncommon in Gaza for the WCK's tents to be the only standing structure among piles and piles of rubble. The same is true in Altadena. Again, it is not bombs that have



destroyed Altadena — but disinvestment and a failure to confront climate change. Something else that struck me as similar to Gaza was the conspicuous presence of military-grade vehicles parked at the entrances to neighborhoods. This is not the case in the wealthier parts of Pasadena and the Palisades.

These are people's homes, businesses, cars, schools, playgrounds, local dives, and even graveyards — all destroyed. Ultimately, the system of capitalism does not view this sort of destruction as a tragedy, but as an opportunity. Many people have analyzed capitalism as woefully inadequate to confront the tragedy that has played out in Altadena. This is true; however, this inadequacy is not a mistake. The capitalist system isn't designed to care for people's needs in crises but to exploit them.

We cannot forget Tulsa. We cannot forget Gaza. We cannot forget Altadena. The racist and classist oppression at the heart of all these events, one way or another, is still alive and well. The crisis of anti-Black apartheid in the United States is far from over. The crisis of the Zionist occupation of Palestine is far from over. The crisis of climate inequality and uneven investment in oppressed communities is far from over.

As the working class continues to struggle against escalating ruling-class violence, we have to resist the urge to "move on" from these crises that expose capitalism's true nature. We know these crises will continue, and our fight for a working-class revolution will continue along with them. #



# Massive wildfires threaten communities across Carolinas

By Andrew Matatag

Carolina Forest, South Carolina, March 2 — From Saturday to Sunday, an estimated 175 wildfires erupted across South Carolina, with dozens spreading into neighboring North Carolina by Sunday morning. Fueled by dry, windy conditions, the fires have forced thousands to flee, destroyed swaths of land and prompted a state of emergency in South Carolina.

The largest and most urgent blaze, dubbed the “Carolina Forest Fire,” ignited shortly before dawn on Sunday near residential neighborhoods in Horry County — where this writer’s family lives. Evacuation orders were issued as early as 4:45 a.m., and residents of Carolina Forest and surrounding areas were urged to leave immediately. Traffic congestion was reported along major evacuation routes, including Highway 501, as families scrambled to escape advancing flames.

South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster declared a state of emergency Sunday morning, activating National Guard resources and authorizing the deployment of Black Hawk helicopters to aid firefighting efforts. South Carolina Forestry Commission officials, alongside more than 410 personnel from local and regional fire agencies, are battling the Carolina For-



est fire, which has already consumed approximately 4,200 acres (about 6.5 square miles). For context, the blaze remains significantly smaller than California’s historic 37,800-acre Los Angeles wildfires, but its proximity to densely populated areas has heightened concerns.

While officials cite extreme weather

conditions as a key factor, the exact cause of the wildfires remains under investigation. State authorities have not yet released details about potential ignition sources, leaving residents to speculate whether downed power lines, human activity or other triggers may be responsible.

As of Sunday evening, evacuation orders for Carolina Forest and adjacent communities have been lifted, despite the fire being only 30% contained. Horry County Fire Rescue spokesperson Dana Brown cautioned, “The situation remains fluid,” noting that shifting winds and dry vegetation could reignite hotspots. More than 60 structures, including homes and outbuildings, are confirmed damaged or destroyed, though no fatalities have been reported.

Displaced residents expressed frustration and anxiety, criticizing the lack of transparency about the fires’ origins and the decision to lift evacuations prematurely.

“They’re telling us it’s safe, but we can still smell smoke. We can still see the glow,” said Carolina Forest resident Marissa Torres, who returned Sunday to find her property covered in ash.

Firefighters continued to work through the night, with reinforcements arriving from neighboring states. Shelters remain open in Myrtle Beach and Conway for those unable to return home. #

## Harriet Tubman Center hosts tribute to Malcolm X



By Sharon Black

Members of the Peoples Power Assembly and the Struggle for Socialism Party gave special remarks on “What Malcolm Means to Me” to mark the 60th anniversary of his assassination. Pictured from left to right are Joy B, Colby Bryd, and Apryle Everly at the Baltimore Harriet Tubman Solidarity Center holding a special Struggle-La Lucha supplement. A packed audience viewed the film “Seven Songs for Malcolm X” and participated in lively discussion. #

# From Black Reconstruction to Elon Musk

## A Black Labor History Perspective

By Clarence Thomas

*The following text is based on a talk given by Clarence Thomas, a third-generation retired member of ILWU Local 10, on a Natianal Coalition of Black Teamsters podcast co-hosted by Richard Hooker, Secretary- Treasurer, Teamsters Local 623 and Chris Silvera, Secretary- Treasurer, Teamsters Local 808. In addition to Thomas, guest speakers included David Gonzalez, National Vice President of District 2 AFGE.*

Solidarity Greetings, sisters, brothers. I would like to thank Brother Richard Hooker and all of those involved in making this podcast possible.

The subject of my presentation today — “A Black Labor History Perspective” — could not be occurring at a better time, not just because of Black History Month but also because of the current presidency of Donald J. Trump, a reckless, avaricious billionaire known for making racist comments, failing to pay his workers and outsourcing his manufacturing firms. He is currently presiding over an unprecedented effort to exercise authoritarian rule over all branches of the U.S. government, with Elon Musk wielding unmitigated authority as head of DOGE.

There has been a long history in this country of trade union and white working-class intransigence against Black working-class advancement — alongside episodes of interracial class unity and the elusive promise of a radical future and a labor party.

Racism has genuinely undermined working-class democracy and power in favor of the meager protections of white privilege. Alongside the placement of occupational color bars by unions to the outbreak of wildcat strikes against the hiring of Black workers, history is also scattered with episodes of anti-racism and interracial unity. From the Knights of Labor, the International Workers of the World (IWW) to the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO). From the League of Black Revolutionary Workers to the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), Black Labor militants appealed to white and other workers of color for solidarity.

More recently, in 2004, we witnessed the emergence of the Million Worker March Movement, initiated by African American trade unionists, which assembled at the Lincoln Memorial on Oct. 17, 2004, calling for all workers to break

with the two ruling class parties and embrace a worker agenda.

### Capitalism and racism go together like a hand and glove

Slavery was capitalism on steroids! It provided free labor by an enslaved population that had no rights at all. Any child of an enslaved woman was born into a life of indefinite bondage. Efforts to enslave Indians were not successful; they could not adjust to the labor in captivity and often escaped to the familiar terrain of the forest.

Free white laborers were scarce and were unwilling to work when cheap land was available — white indentured servitude was an important source of labor in some colonies. But, this limited term of bondage could not meet the growing demand for workers. Blacks could be forced into slavery more easily than whites because, once enslaved, they could not easily run away and mingle in strange surroundings. The Land Barons said, “A Black skin connoted evil, and inferiority; Blacks were said to be destined to be slaves by the ‘curse of Ham.’” They were pictured as savages and infidels from a barbaric, dark continent without a civilization, and enslavement was judged to be an improvement to their way of life.

The number of Black slaves grew slowly in the 17th Century. In 1700, there were probably a little more than 25,000 Black slaves in colonial British North America. Slavery was suited to plantation agriculture and to the Southern economy generally. Slave labor could be maintained at a subsistence standard of living. The offspring of Black women added to the profits of the masters.

Many of the Africans carried to America as slaves brought with them skills in metallurgy, woodworking, and leather, as well as cultivation of rice and indigo.

Free Black wage earners were part of the labor force before the Civil War. But, from the 1790s when white workers formed the first unions to the Civil War, no free Black worker was a member.

The Colored National Labor Union, or the National Labor Union, was formed by African Americans in 1869 with the goal of improving working conditions and the quality of life for its members. It represented African American laborers in 21 states. Among the goals of the

union was the issue of farmland for African Americans in the South, government aid for education, and non-discriminatory legislation that would help struggling Black workers.

Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois, in his book “Black Reconstruction,” describes how enslaved African Americans went on strike during the Civil War on the plantations in the South. They frequently ran away and went to Union Army encampments. In some instances, they were led back to their plantations.

Du Bois says: “Slaves are workers. As workers constantly struggle with their masters, not only over working conditions but over their legal and social status as well.” He gives a class analysis of how the enslaved contributed to their own freedom and were not just bystanders. There were thousands who fought and died as Union soldiers. He draws an analysis that better connects race and class. The enslaved increasingly ran away, took up arms against their masters, and intentionally sabotaged and disrupted global cotton production.

### Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters

In 1925, The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters Union (BSCP) was founded by A. Philip Randolph, an African American radical trade unionist, and avowed socialist at the time. It was the first union led by African Americans to receive a in the American Federation of Labor charter.

Beginning with the Civil War, the job of Pullman Porter had become an important means of work for African Americans. Randolph was its founder and President and C.L. Delum, vice president and the union's second president.

Porters on regular assignment worked an average of 73 hours per week and earned 27.8 cents an hour. In the 1920s, groups as diverse as the Urban League, the Socialist Party of America, and the Communist Party began to focus on the rights of Black workers.

In 1941, The March on Washington Movement (MWM) was initiated by A. Philip Randolph. It was the most militant and important action in African American politics in the early 1940s. Its objective was to bring 10,000 Negroes to Washington, D.C., to demand an end to discrimination in hiring in the defense

*Continued on page 6*



# AFGE is under a MASSIVE attack

## It's an assault on all workers,

By David Gonzalez

*David Gonzalez, National Vice President of District 2 AFGE representing federal workers in NJ, NY, Conn. Maine, Vermont, Mass., NH, and Rhode Island, discussed the Trump/Musk DOGE assault with the Teamster National Black Caucus (TNBC) on a podcast on Feb. 24. Following is an abridged account of the report by AFGE Vice President Gonzalez.*

First, I want to thank you and your organization, the Teamsters, for inviting us – to hear our plight. Yeah, we're in the crosshairs on the front lines. And we're out in these streets. We're going to stay out in these streets until these attacks cease on the federal workforce. It's not just the federal workers, but all working people who are under attack. We have to unite together and fight for the working-class people, especially our people.

AFGE is the biggest federal union, representing 800,000 federal workers across the United States and Europe. We also represent USAID, the Department of Education, the EPA, and many other agencies, with the exception of the post office and a couple of others.

Our union and our workers are fighting for our existence right now. Donald Trump attacked us when he got elected the first time around. He tried to take away our collective bargaining rights.

He took away union time that's needed to represent our workers. He tried to take away the space allotted to us contractually inside facilities that we need to meet with our members when they have problems with their jobs.

So we were aware of what Donald Trump could do if he was elected again. We're asking you to do everything in your power to help us right now because the federal workforce is in a fight for our existence. Speak out about what Elon Musk and Donald Trump are doing to destroy the federal government workforce.

Schedule F — he tried to institute this before and it didn't get off the floor because of the COVID epidemic. But the action against Schedule F will transform the professional civil service into an army of political appointees loyal to only to Donald Trump, and not the mission of their jobs. It dismantles the merit-based civil service, jeopardizing professionalism and impartiality in government.

*[Editor's note: Trump's Executive Order 13957 in October 2020 — Schedule F — reclassified tens of thousands of federal employees, replacing qualified federal workers with appointees.]*

They are intimidating government workers into accepting their crooked and corrupt resignation offers. They sent

out mass notices asking people to resign in the federal workforce. AFGE is in the courts fighting this illegal action. We can expect worse to come from Trump.

He's showing that he will pay no attention to collective bargaining, even what was enforced during his first term. He'll follow the "Project 2025 Playbook" and try to end collective bargaining to bust, not just our unions, but all unions in the name of fake national security.

Congress will go after federal pay and benefits when they decide how to fund the government budget, which expires March 14. The House and Senate passed a budget resolution for fiscal year 2025, which did just that, which came after the benefits and the retirement of the federal workforce.

Without functioning government agencies, there will be no way to undo the damage in two or four years. The damage will be too far gone. We ask that labor as a whole have our backs.

### Hold the Line

Please speak out and tell all federal workers to hold the line and not quit. We've been doing what we can, but our members are only 15% of the workforce. There are managers that we don't rep-

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## A Black Labor History Perspective

*Continued from page 5*

industry and the discrimination in the U.S. military.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt cut a deal with Randolph, signing an executive order for a policy against employment discrimination as the nation prepared for war, establishing the first Fair Employment Practices Committee.

In 1947, another March on Washington was planned. At that time, President Harry Truman signed an executive order to end discrimination in the military.

It wasn't until Aug. 28, 1963, that a March on Washington took place led by A. Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin.

The next march was the Million Worker March, which took place at the Lincoln Memorial on Oct. 17, 2004, in Washington, D.C. This time it was initiated by radical trade unionists from the

International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 10 in San Francisco. The call was for workers, organized and unorganized, to embrace a workers' agenda which included:

- Protecting Social Security
- Stop dismantling public education
- Repeal Taft Hartley
- Universal health care
- Slash the military budget
- National living wage
- Amnesty for all undocumented workers
- Workers' right to organize
- Tax relief for working class
- Stop corporate greed
- Enforce all civil rights

The MWM called workers to break from the two ruling-class parties and to form a Workers Party.

In spite of opposition to the MWM by the Democratic Party and AFL-CIO

leaders, during the Teamsters National Black Caucus (TNBC) in August 2004, the delegates voted to have the International Brotherhood of Teamsters contribute \$10,000 to the MWM.

In 2005, when MWM held labor gatherings during the Millions More March, the Teamsters donated another \$10,000, supporting many of the MWM demands.

At a press conference during the Millions More Rally, Brother Chris Silvera demanded that President Bush reinstate the Davis Bacon Act during the rebuilding of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. The Act requires that federal dollars appropriated on public works projects must pay prevailing wages to workers on the project. A couple weeks later Bush enforced Davis Bacon on federally funded projects related to Katrina.

*Find more at [www.milliondollarmarch.org](http://www.milliondollarmarch.org)*

# organized and unorganized

resent, so please help us reach everyone. Services will collapse if this is not stopped. More work will be piled onto less people, which is already a common problem throughout government.

If you look at cutbacks in the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Veterans Administration (VA) during the Bush and Biden administrations, agencies have been under-staffed for years.

This is going to affect every congressional district. It's food safety, it's Social Security payments and it's the safety of the flying public with TSA. Here's how you can help us. Use the media to explain the critical work that federal workers do in the communities.

We need to speak up for this federal workforce whenever you have the opportunity. Please consider submitting amicus briefs in support of lawsuits that AFGE is filing against the Trump administration to challenge its unjust treatment of the federal workforce. We need to get the message out to stop Donald Trump, Elon Musk, and all those billionaires.

One of the things that Trump did was "the return to work directive." During the pandemic a lot of the workforce went remote. The government was okay with it. Smart telework enhances productivity and retention of experienced workers. Rolling it back disrupts operations.

## A hiring freeze since the 1970s

A hiring freeze was put in place beginning in the 1970s. The federal workforce hasn't grown since then, while the U.S. population has skyrocketed. Bill Clinton did what Trump and Elon Musk are trying to do now, but in a different way. His cap on the workforce led to understaffing and shortened skill gaps undermining vital government services. The hiring freeze does not on its face abrogate collective bargaining agreements. Agency implementations must align with negotiated agreements. If violations occur, unions can file grievances.

Now, Trump and Elon Musk are trying to dismantle the government without preemptive planning about its functions and what is needed for it to work. That is the difference now.

When we eat or when we go to the supermarket, it's a USDA worker that's inspecting that food and making sure that

these companies that process our food are doing it in a safe manner for people. The federal workforce is important and they make this country thrive.

When you go to national parks and monuments, it's a federal worker there that's keeping the grounds and giving you tours — making sure you have a good experience.

There's many broad ways that the federal workforce functions. I can go on and on about all agencies. There's a lot of misinformation. Trump and his cronies claim that the federal workforce is lazy, but the federal workforce is what makes this country work.

When they talked about USAID buying condoms and stuff, that was misinformation. Elon Musk even came back later and said, that it wasn't true, saying: "There is going to be misinformation."

The Trump administration wants to divide us, especially the working people, so we can't unite our power, and make these politicians respect the workforce.

## This is PATCO on steroids

What Reagan did to the air traffic controllers is now being heaped on the entire federal system by Trump. When Reagan fired the air traffic controllers who were on strike, the size of private sector unions shrunk by half. Now, Trump is trying to destroy unions. He's starting with us, low-hanging fruit because he has control of the federal workforce. He's going to start with us, and then he'll come for you. This is why we need to unite as one in labor.

There's a lot of us in the federal workforce. One of the things that people need to know is that the federal government was one of the first places where people of African descent could get decent jobs. Frederick Douglass's son worked in the federal government.

It's important that we expose all the Trump/ Musk lies and talk about the importance of the federal workers.

You can sketch out what that would look like when Donald Trump privatizes our jobs and gives the contracts to his billionaire friends. They make money off the federal government. It's no secret that most of Elon Musk's contracts for his satellites and space companies come from the Department of Defense, whose

civilian workforce belongs to AFGE.

So Elon Musk has his hand in the pocket of the federal government. Now he's having a say on the federal workforce.

AFGE is a part of the AFL-CIO and we get our voice out there to gain the support of the whole union movement. That's why we're in the streets. We had a massive rally in Washington, D.C. with the support of other unions. We've held rallies in New York, Boston, and Connecticut. We're going to be in the streets by the thousands all over the country.

Once Donald Trump and his cronies are finished with us, they're coming for the rest of labor. Those of us who lived in New York, New Jersey, and in the Northeast, we knew how Donald Trump bankrupted Atlantic City. He didn't pay contractors. He made them go to court because his pockets were deep and their pockets were small.

Trump targeted DEI when the plane went down in Washington, D.C. He didn't console the families of those deceased on that flight. Right away, he held a press conference to blame it on measures taken to end racism and discrimination. One of his first executive actions was an executive order to do away with DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) programs.

Federal employees are not rich people. A lot of people start at the minimum wage. Federal employees have been underpaid for a long time. It depends on what you do and the level you come into, and the position that you apply for.

There's pay inequity in the federal workforce already. When Trump takes away the DEI policies, then that's going to create an even worse gender and racial pay gap.

We need a united front against Trump, Musk and his gangsters who want to smash the unions. We need actions.

Stand in solidarity with the federal workforce. When there's an attack on us, it is an attack on you. Educate your members and let them know that our fight is just. Partner with us every chance that you get to support us, just like we would support you. If you ever need AFGE, we're there with you, just like I know that you will be here for us. We need to push back and push back hard. #

*Excerpted from [tinyurl.com/2bw25tfu](https://tinyurl.com/2bw25tfu)*

# Trump's NATO demands signal tech billionaire priorities, not peace

By Lev Koufax

President Donald Trump made it no secret during his election campaign that if he won, he expected Europe to “pay their fair share” regarding NATO and the war in Ukraine. Many in the Republican Party, including Trump himself, have claimed that the aim of this is to “end the suffering” and “have a peace that is good for both sides.”

However, Trump's somewhat performative hostility toward Zelensky and new demands on Europe have nothing to do with peace or justice. These shifts do not represent a willingness to end Western hostility but a redeployment of resources.

## Tech billionaires' focus on China

It is no secret that Trump has a significant support base among tech billionaires. This includes Elon Musk, Sundar Pichai, Jeff Bezos, and Mark Zuckerberg. This group of capitalists is more concerned with China's growing investment in quantum computing technology, artificial intelligence, and electric vehicles. Chinese companies such as DeepSeek in AI and BYD in the electric vehicle market are beginning to pull ahead of Western alternatives. What Musk and Silicon Valley are not interested in, is a costly unwinnable ground war that mostly serves as a boon for old money defense conglomerates and fossil fuel barons like General Dynamics, ExxonMobil, and Northrop Grumman.

China is the far greater threat to Silicon Valley's profits and thus to Trump's ruling-class base of support. Trump's focus on securing a rare earth metals deal with Ukraine is further evidence of an imperialist realignment in focus on the People's Republic of China. China controls a significant portion of the global supply of rare earth metals necessary for all high-tech equipment. Securing alternative supply chains would be the first step in opening up Trump's ability to escalate economic or military conflict with the PRC.

## Balancing competing business interests

That realignment in focus should not be mistaken for a true U.S. softening on Russia or even a sign that the war in



France's President Emmanuel Macron, Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky at a summit in London on the Ukraine war.

Ukraine in 2025. Finland will immediately provide \$691 million in combat equipment to Ukraine's fascist military. Just days ago, Britain announced a \$2.84 billion loan to Ukraine to continue the

war. All of these deals have been announced since Trump took office. Ukraine will quickly come to a close. Even with the cost to the taxpayer, the war in Ukraine has still been wildly profitable for many in the ruling class. The increased price of oil and the record spending to replenish military arsenals have made defense and fossil fuel companies billions of dollars. For that reason, Musk and Trump cannot completely end the gravy train of profits from the NATO war against Russia without significant backlash from that part of the ruling class.

To be able to escalate against China while also not chaotically leaving billions of dollars on the table in Ukraine, Musk and Trump's plan seems to be twofold. First, Trump has not yet shown willingness to hold the delivery of already funded military aid indefinitely. Second, the United States will force Europe to foot enough of the bill to keep the war, and thus the profits, going for at least some period of time. The EU is already considering an \$840 billion plan to rearm Europe, particularly Ukraine. This way, the ruling class can avoid the chaotic withdrawal similar to what the Biden administration experienced in Afghanistan. Whether this will work or not is yet to be seen.

Several European countries have already pledged their largest assistance packages to date over the past few weeks. Recently elected German Chancellor Friedrich Merz has already presented a \$3.2 billion military aid package for Ukraine to the German legislature. The Norwegian Prime Minister recently announced that the country will spend \$3.12 billion in mostly military aid to

war. All of these deals have been announced since Trump took office.

The European countries can adopt harsher rhetoric against the Trump administration, but they are undermined by the fact that they are already doing exactly what Trump wants. Europe will increase military spending and keep NATO's war in Ukraine going until the U.S. can try to make a graceful exit. This could very well be a ruling-class fantasy considering that it is unlikely Russia will accept anything less than the full demilitarization of Ukraine. Russia will not end the war that they are winning, having sacrificed so much, just to allow a NATO bridgehead on its western border, nor should they. What this burden sharing shift to Europe makes abundantly clear, more than ever, is that the war in Ukraine was a NATO project aimed at Russia from its onset.

## Shifting priorities, not pursuing peace

Regardless of whether a peace agreement comes in Ukraine, or if the European Union takes over arming Ukraine, or the U.S. continues the campaign directly, Trump and Musk's actions will not lead to greater peace in the world. Much like how the Biden administration pivoted from Afghanistan in 2021 and was already fighting Russia in Ukraine in early 2022, expect any U.S. withdrawal from Eastern Europe to be quickly followed by a new military campaign against China, Iran, or even Mexico. This new political administration's plan is not to pursue peace in the world, it is simply to cool the assault on one front so as to be more effective on another. #



# U.S. financial warfare: Sanctions target Russia and China

By Gary Wilson

Donald Trump may appear to conduct the White House as if it were part of “The Apprentice” television series — he’s rumored to have said “You’re fired” to Zelensky. His Secretary of Education is Linda McMahon of World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE has been newly tapped to train FBI agents). But it’s not really a three-ring circus no matter how it looks.

It’s a no-holds-barred war machine with a ruthless manipulator at the helm — war at home and war abroad. To Zelensky, Trump said we want Ukraine’s rare earth minerals; that’s “the deal or we’re out.”

What you don’t see on the TV news or in the social media feeds, but you will find in the business press like Bloomberg News, is a report that “Secretary of State Marco Rubio told European allies that the Trump administration would keep its Russia sanctions in place.” On Feb. 27, Trump issued an executive order that extended Biden’s sanctions against Russia for another year.

## Sanctions are a key weapon

The sanctions are a key weapon in the U.S. war on Russia ... and China.

The U.S. dominates the world’s money system by controlling a network called SWIFT, which banks use every day for global transactions.

SWIFT is the main system for international money transfers. Without it, countries can’t easily do business with each other. The U.S. has effectively weaponized access to SWIFT as part of its sanctions regime.

Many people call this method the “nuclear option” of sanctions. It means cutting off a country’s access to SWIFT, which can seriously hurt its ability to trade.

As Foreign Policy magazine explained when Biden imposed sanctions on Russia, removing Russian banks from the SWIFT system has disabled Russia’s international trade. (“What does Russia’s removal from SWIFT mean for the future of global commerce?”)

Because of the sanctions, Chinese banks are afraid of doing business with Russian businesses out of fear of being frozen out of dollar transactions through SWIFT.

## Trade problems between Russia and China

A report published on InfoBRICS (the joint website of the ministries of foreign affairs of the BRICS member states) outlined the problems the sanctions have caused in Russian-Chinese economic relations.

The report says U.S. sanctions have caused serious trade problems between Russia and China. Until recently, Russia and China claimed to have their “best relations in history.” But now, since mid-2024 when Biden imposed new sanctions on Russia and China, Chinese banks have been rejecting and returning approximately 80% of Russian payments made in Chinese yuan. Chinese banks are even refusing money from other countries if the sender has a Russian name. This affects small businesses and huge projects like Arctic LNG-2, which produces natural gas. China is being careful because it doesn’t want to lose access to U.S. and European markets, which are still very important to its economy.

Since 2014, Russia has been trying to develop ways to do business without depending on Western financial systems. This included using Russian and Chinese currencies instead of dollars and euros. In 2023, about 95% of trade between Russia and China used their own currencies instead of dollars. However, this didn’t protect their trade relationship because they still rely on U.S.-controlled payment systems for most international transactions.

Russia and China have often discussed connecting their payment systems (SFPS and CIPS) but have yet to do so.

They are trying to solve these problems by using “workarounds” — like finding payment middle agents in other countries or trading goods directly instead of using money. Some try to work with smaller Chinese banks, but this doesn’t always work. These methods all cost more money and time. Besides being unreliable and expensive, these workarounds also damage the relations of both countries.

China has experience working with countries under sanctions, such as North Korea and Iran. They could create special financial organizations just to



To Zelensky, Trump said we want Ukraine’s rare earth minerals; that’s “the deal or we’re out.”

work with Russia, but this would take time and money because Russia and China do so much business together. There’s only one Russian bank branch in Shanghai, which can’t handle all the business needs. Even though other Russian banks plan to open offices in China, this won’t solve the bigger problem.

All these temporary solutions treat the symptoms but not the cause of the problem. This situation shows how the U.S. can threaten relationships between independent countries. If a country challenges U.S. hegemony, its ability to trade with others can be severely limited — sometimes just through threats alone.

## BRICS Pay

The world is changing, with developing countries aligning through multilateral groups like BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, and now six more countries: Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Indonesia). BRICS represents 45% of the world’s population and 37% of the world’s GDP. On Jan. 1, 2025, nine nations were announced as the first BRICS partner countries: Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan, and Nigeria.

The report on InfoBRICS suggests that the payment problems between Russia and China might be solved by creating the BRICS Pay system. This system, built using blockchain technology (the same technology behind Bitcoin), could replace SWIFT.

BRICS Pay remains in the proposal and developmental stages. In October 2024, Russian Minister of Finance Anton Siluanov indicated that the details of the BRICS Pay system that would be

*Continued on page 12*

# One year later: Remembering Aaron Bushnell's self-immolation protest against genocide

One year ago, on Feb. 25, 2024, 25-year-old Aaron Bushnell, an active-duty member of the U.S. Air Force, self-immolated in front of the Zionist Embassy in Washington, D.C., to protest against the genocide of tens of thousands of Palestinians. He said that he refused to be “complicit in genocide,” and as his body burned in flames, he cried out six times, “Free Palestine.”

In Los Angeles, Palestine solidarity activists gathered in front of the Zionist consulate to honor Bushnell. Organizers from the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, Code Pink, Justice 4 Palestine, and many individuals worked together to organize the action. #



SLL photo

## Valentine's Day: Baltimore ♥ Palestine

By Jace Carter

Baltimore, Feb. 15 — Organizers from the People's Power Assembly (PPA) initiated a city-wide takeover of banner drops on high-visibility street corners and overpasses both to demonstrate that the movement for Palestine hasn't slowed down one bit and to show Baltimore's love for Palestine on Valentine's Day weekend.

Other endorsing local organizations like Baltimore Peace Action, Baltimore CPUSA, Johns Hopkins Graduate Students for Justice in Palestine (JHG-SJP), Veterans for Peace, Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) Organizers & Activists (MOA), and PSL also participated; each group dropped its banners at locations of its choosing. The unity of Baltimore's movement for Palestine was on full display in an estimated 10+ locations around the city, with banners raising

slogans like “Free Palestine! Divest from Genocide!” “ICE out of Baltimore,” “Baltimore Stands with Palestine,” “Say NO to Racism and War,” etc.

In addition to holding banners, demonstrators also held cute heart-shaped signs that said “Palestine” in the middle and distributed literature to pedestrians about the upcoming film screening and special presentations at the Solidarity Center to honor the 60th anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X, held on Feb. 22.

People's responses to the banner drops were very positive, as there were lots of friendly and supportive honks from cars that passed by, and very few demonstrators were either harassed by Zionist supporters or given a hard time by city or university police.

Following the success of the banner drops, the organizations all joined together downtown at McKeldin Square for a brief but powerful unity rally. PPA orga-

nizers passed out candy hearts with personalized messages that said “Love Not Genocide,” “Free Palestine,” and “Baltimore Loves Palestine” to other participating groups and passersby in the square.

Despite the chilly weather, rain, and sleet, the crowd at the rally passionately chanted in support of Palestine and Baltimore workers, demonstrating incredible spirit.

Organizers from both PPA and MOA gave speeches emphasizing the importance of continuing to build and sustain the mass movement by interconnecting all of our struggles and organizing against a common enemy.

This is the only way we win against the rising tide of fascism in this country. This action was our Valentine to Palestine.

Imperialism will die in Palestine! From the river to the sea, Palestine is almost free! Capitalism will face defeat when workers fight back and hit the streets! #

SLL photos



Gwynn Falls &amp; Penn. Ave.

Edmondson Ave. &amp; Hilton St.

Southeast Anchor Branch

over MLK Blvd.

Pratt St. and Light St.



# Cuba's message: 'Learn the truth about our struggle and end imperialist punishment'

By Colby Byrd

On February 28, Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Fernandez de Cossio delivered a speech at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C., to provide an update on the current state of U.S.-Cuba relations from Cuba's perspective. C-Span's video of the broadcast event is available at: Cuban Official Discusses U.S.-Cuba Relations | C-SPAN.org. The event was co-sponsored by the Latin American Working Group and Black Alliance for Peace.

In a concise but clear presentation, de Cossio explained the root issue in U.S.-Cuba relations is "the consistent failure by the government of the United States of understanding and accepting that Cuba is and has the right to be a sovereign nation with the right to self-determination. That the U.S. has no right to govern Cuba and we do have the right to govern ourselves and defend ourselves and to provide for our people in the way that as Cubans we feel is appropriate."

After eight years of "maximum pressure" initiated during the first Trump administration and continued under Biden, "the current government has come in – at least from the State Department point of view and for the people that are in State Department – with a declared commitment to make life for Cubans, all Cubans, even more difficult than it is today. The commitment to mobilize the full power of the United States which is very overwhelming and has an impact all over the world to make sure that this punishment is presented upon the people of Cuba with the aim of cutting all the remaining sources of income, to be able to cut our access to technology, to markets, to financial institutions," de Cossio said, likening it to a medieval siege.

The U.S. will fail at its aim to defeat Cuba's revolutionary independence as it has over the 65 years since Lester Malloy wrote the infamous State Department April 6, 1960, secret memo. The memo outlines the continued U.S. strategy to alienate support "through disenchant-



**Cuban Deputy  
Foreign Minister  
Carlos Fernandez  
de Cossio**

ment, and the country put back on the "State Sponsor of Terrorism" list, there will still be Cuban doctors working to give life-saving medical care all around the world.

This good faith by the Cuban people is returned on the international stage where since 1992 the majority of countries vote with Cuba in the United Nations General Assembly calling for the U.S. to end its illegal siege and occupation of the island. In 2023 and 2024, 187 out of 193 UN

member countries urged that Cuba be removed from the U.S. State Department unilateral list of "State Sponsors of Terrorism" and called on the U.S. to end the blockade.

ment and disaffection based on economic dissatisfaction and hardship." It specifies that "as adroit and inconspicuous as possible, make the greatest inroads in denying money and supplies to Cuba, to decrease monetary and real wages, to bring about hunger desperation and overthrow of government." (<https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1958-60v06/ch10>)

At this meeting, the Deputy Foreign Minister discussed Cuba's role on the international stage. The government of Cuba views the current world order, that of U.S. hegemony, as unsustainable and damaging to world peace. They also believe in a world order based on multilateralism, which is differentiated from a multipolar world order that can seem reminiscent of old colonialism.

The audience left the gathering with a clear objective. The objective is to counteract media disinformation by sharing the truth about Cuba with the larger population within the United States. It is the Cuban government's stance that if the people of the United States knew the true horrors of U.S. imperialism on Cuba, they would work by any means necessary to end the U.S. campaign to intentionally impose hunger and hardships on the Cuban people.

Whether it is fighting the information war or the economic siege, the victories can only be won through continued international solidarity and channeling the Cuban people's revolutionary fighting spirit and resistance into everything we do. #

# The real French Connection was CIA approved

By Stephen Millies

The deaths of actor Gene Hackman and his partner, classical pianist Betsy Arakawa, have led to movie clips of “The French Connection” movie being shared across social media. Hackman, who starred in the 1971 box office hit, was awarded an Oscar for Best Actor.

The movie’s plot involved two New York City police detectives busting a huge heroin smuggling operation known as the French Connection.

Gene Hackman played Detective Jimmy “Popeye” Doyle (based on NYPD Detective Eddie Egan). Roy Scheider played Doyle’s sidekick, Detective Buddy “Cloudy” Russo (modeled on NYPD Detective Salvatore “Sonny” Grosso).

The French Connection was real and 112 pounds of heroin were seized in the January 1962 bust. What was left out of the movie was how all of the heroin — valued at \$70 million — and hundreds of pounds of other drugs were eventually stolen from the NYPD’s evidence locker. That shows how corrupt police departments are.

Neither did the film reveal how French authorities and the CIA blessed the French Connection. Based in Marseille, gangsters operated laboratories producing heroin and shipped the deadly drug to the United States. It was a gold mine for both French and U.S. organized crime.

As described in “The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia,” by Alfred McCoy, these gangsters helped break a 1947 French general strike led by the Communist Party. In exchange for their union-busting and anti-communist terrorism, crime lords in Marseille were allowed to make and ship the heroin.

All of this poison was pumped into the Black and Latinx communities. It served as an excuse to jail hundreds of thousands of poor people.

## The CIA and crack

While the French Connection imported opium from Turkey, later in the 1960s the center of heroin production shifted to Southeast Asia against the backdrop of the Vietnam War. The CIA’s Air America transported the junk.



The real “Popeye Doyle” was a vicious racist NYC cop.

In the 1980s, the CIA helped finance the Contra terrorists trying to overthrow the Sandinista Revolution in Nicaragua by starting the crack epidemic. Tens of thousands of Nicaraguans were killed by the CIA-backed terrorists.

Journalists Robert Parry and Gary Webb helped expose this Contra drug connection. (See Gary Webb’s book, *Dark Alliance*, the CIA, the Contras, and the Crack Cocaine Explosion.)

Webb deserved a Pulitzer Prize for his articles but was driven to suicide — or was perhaps “suicided” — instead.

When Barry Seal — the top drug smuggler for the Contras — was murdered in 1986, he carried the personal phone number of Reagan’s vice president (and future president), George Herbert Walker Bush. Bush had also been a former CIA director.

Drug smuggling is nothing new for the U.S. ruling class. John Jacob Astor, who became the biggest slumlord in the Western Hemisphere in the 1800s, illegally shipped 10 tons of opium to China in 1816.

Another big-time player in the opium trade was Warren Delano. His family fortune, derived from this poisonous drug, helped put his grandson Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the White House.

It was the Chinese Revolution that ended this drug plague.

## Hollywood racism

The real Eddie Egan was a vicious racist New York City cop. Gene Hackman, who had to work with the detective, told the movie’s director William Friedkin, “I think he’s a racist, I think he uses his power over people to intimidate them.”

This was even shown in the film

where Hackman’s “Popeye” Doyle character (Eddie Egan) tells his partner “Cloudy” Russo (“Sonny” Grosso), “never trust a (n-word.)”

This open racism didn’t stop this film from winning the best picture award.

The French Connection was the start of a whole series of movies that glorified cops who “cut corners” and didn’t hesitate to beat-up people. Almost all of

them featured dramatic car chases that in real life can kill bystanders.

Two months after the French Connection was released, the first Dirty Harry movie appeared.

The French Connection movie was based on the novel of the same name by Robin Moore. He was as racist as his hero Eddie Egan.

Moore wrote the novel *The Green Berets* that glorified the dirty war in Vietnam. It was the basis of the *Green Berets* film starring the white supremacist John Wayne. (Moore was even a co-writer of the *Green Berets* ballad sung by Barry Sadler.)

Moore was also a big supporter of the white settlers occupying Zimbabwe, who called their colony “Rhodesia.” Through armed struggle — the Chimurenga — the people of Zimbabwe took back their land.

So will the people of Palestine. #

## Sanctions target Russia and China

*Continued from page 9*

acceptable to all participants should be ready within a year.

But BRICS Pay has not been agreed upon. There are significant technical, political, and regulatory issues yet to be worked out.

There is not yet any alternative to the Bretton Woods institutions based on the U.S. dollar, no alternative to the SWIFT system.

For now, U.S. sanctions are waging direct and indirect war on Russia and China, in particular through U.S. control and manipulation of the SWIFT system. #



# IWD founder Clara Zetkin on fascism, a lesson for today

*Continued from page 1*

world — Indigenous women resisting gender violence, murder and plunderous oil pipelines — immigrant/migrant women fighting for their survival — teachers and nurses resisting COVID-19 — are the continuing heartbeat of International Women's Day.

So too are the women in Haiti taking to the streets despite rightwing violence; the women in India resisting Modi and fighting for the rights of poor farmers; and the women of Brazil, Argentina, Ireland and Poland fighting for control of their bodies — they are its heartbeat.

And no amount of praise can be spared for the women of Cuba, China, Zimbabwe, Iran, North Korea, Yemen and so many countries' women who are resisting sanctions and U.S. imperialism.

After all, International Women's Day was founded on the idea of international solidarity of working and poor women around the globe, and recognized first by the world socialist movement on March 19, 1911.

## International Women's Day is 112 years old

Clara Zetkin was its original heartbeat, and she definitely had a red heart.

While advances in human history are never the product of one person or leader, but rather the result of social and material conditions that compel the intervention of masses of people, leaders and their organizations are an indispensable product of that process.

They can't be separated from these earthquakes, placed above or below it, but rather play an indispensable role in guaranteeing its success. Intense struggle, in the form of huge strikes, protests in the streets, sit-downs at the workplace, occupations and ultimately insurrections and uprisings, are the engine of change.

In the case of International Women's Day, you could call Clara Zetkin the tireless driver of that engine.

During this period, women in Europe and other parts of the world were emerging from feudalism and slave-like conditions, where they were subjugated to sexual abuse, isolated in their homes and villages as serfs and peasants; only to be forced into a new kind of slavery, toiling alongside their children in the brutal sweatshops of capitalism.

In these new conditions, revolutionary socialist and communist women agitated and organized women workers to resist even when this meant doing so under il-

legal conditions, subjecting them to jail and exile.

The First World War compounded suffering in unimaginable ways. It brought death and starvation, but it also brought resistance, especially by women.

While the declaration of International Women's Day was made in Europe, Zetkin's aim as a revolutionary socialist and communist was that it would be international in scope, uniting women across all boundaries.

## Inspiration from New York City

One of the earliest of women's protests that helped fuel the movement took place in the United States on March 8, 1908. Thousands of women garment workers, mainly immigrants, took to the streets demanding their rights.

This was followed a year later with the 1909 "Uprising of the 20,000," also called the New York shirtwaist strike, a three-month garment workers' strike.

## Women kick off a revolution

But the unforgettable turning point that sealed the deal was when the women of Russia touched off a revolution.

On March 8, 1917, striking women textile workers joined other women attacking bakeries over high bread prices in Petrograd, Russia. They implored soldiers to put down their rifles.

Some 90,000 protesters took to the streets demanding "peace, land and bread."

This was the opening salvo that toppled Russia's hated czar and in less than a year, the workers, peasants and the poor led by the Bolshevik Party took power in November 1917.

While encircled and under attack by the imperialist powers, they formed the first socialist workers' state. One of the very first things the new Soviet revolution did was codify women's equality.

## Zetkin the theoretician, organizer and doer

While Clara Zetkin dedicated much of her time and effort to the cause of working class women, she was simultaneously a thinker and writer, what we call a theoretician, and as a revolutionary, a doer, organizer and participant.

Sometimes there were painful splits and conflict. Zetkin left the Socialist Party of Germany in 1916 because of its imperialist pro-war position and, along with Rosa Luxemburg, helped pave the way for the founding of the Communist Party of Germany.

She was jailed repeatedly for opposing World War I. Remarkably, Lenin met with her to strategize on the question of women.

## Another part of Clara Zetkin's story — fighting racism

Zetkin was fiercely opposed to Jim Crow and lynching in the U.S. South.

She played a major role in building international support for the Scottsboro Case (1932) of nine Black teenagers falsely accused of raping two white women. They were found guilty and Alabama sought the death penalty for 8 members (the ninth member was only 12 years old). While they were eventually freed, it took years before the teenagers were released.

You can find Zetkin's call, "Save the Scottsboro Black Youth," in "Clara Zetkin: Selected Writings" edited by Philip Foner with a foreword by Angela Davis.

## Zetkin and right-wing putsch at U.S. Capitol

As we continue to discuss the January 6, 2021, events at the U.S. Capitol, we can evaluate and learn from Clara Zetkin.

Zetkin understood the causes of fascism, connecting it to the decay of capitalism, urging socialist and working class unity. Rather than poorly summarize it for you, you should read and study Zetkin's report given on June 20, 1923, to the Communist International: "The Struggle Against Fascism."

Zetkin's writings, presentations and polemics were not abstract. She did not have the luxury of looking back but rather had to write in the middle of the maelstrom. This makes her contributions sharp and even more remarkable.

At the age of 75, gravely ill and nearly blind, she spoke for an hour in the German Parliament (Reichstag) on August 30, 1932, as Nazis yelled death threats at her.

When Hitler came to power, Zetkin was forced into exile and lived her last days in the Soviet Union. She was 76 when she died on June 20, 1933.

Clara Zetkin lived an amazing life, filled with hardship and struggle. She endured the murder of her close friends and comrades Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht, but she also witnessed the birth of the Soviet Union and saw genuine advancements for women.

This real history cannot be shoved underground.

Zetkin's red heart will remain with us. #

# CLARA ZETKIN,

## fundadora del Día Internacional de la Mujer, ideas sobre

Por Sharon Black

Las celebraciones actuales de muchos de los días festivos que reconocen las luchas del pueblo y sus líderes, como por ejemplo el movimiento de derechos civiles y el Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., son un tanto agradables.

La única razón para el reconocimiento formal es que las protestas y la lucha lo hicieron posible, y esto en sí es una victoria. Pero la otra parte, la escéptica, es que la historia real de cómo se originaron, está escondida.

La sangre, el sudor y las lágrimas que se derramaron se han ocultado.

El Día Internacional de la Mujer es así. Se ha hecho mucho para esterilizarlo, empaquetarlo, comercializarlo, hacerlo cómodo al capitalismo, principalmente en el Occidente capitalista, del cual Estados Unidos es la capital.

Pero el corazón que late detrás de todas las imágenes y representaciones de fantasía sigue siendo fuerte, rojo y tiene el potencial de cambiar el mundo. Su cola roja se asoma por debajo de todos los escombros corporativos.

El valor de las trabajadoras negras en el almacén de Amazon en Bessemer, Alabama enfrentándose a Jeff Bezos, uno de los hombres más ricos del mundo; de mujeres indígenas que resisten la violencia de género, asesinatos y oleoductos saqueadores; de mujeres inmigrantes / migrantes que luchan por su supervivencia; de maestras y enfermeras que resisten al COVID-19, son el latido continuo del Día Internacional de la Mujer.

También las mujeres en Haití que están tomando las calles a pesar de la violencia de la derecha; las mujeres de la India que se resisten a Modi y luchan por los derechos de los agricultores pobres; y las mujeres de Brasil, Argentina, Irlanda y Polonia que luchan por el control de sus cuerpos, son el latido de su corazón.

Y no hay elogio suficiente para las mujeres de Cuba, China, Zimbabue, Irán, Corea del norte, Yemen y tantas mujeres de países que se resisten a las sanciones y al imperialismo estadounidense.



Clara Zetkin as a young teacher, ca. 1880.

Después de todo, el Día Internacional de la Mujer se fundó sobre la idea de la solidaridad internacional de las mujeres trabajadoras y pobres de todo el mundo, y fue reconocido por primera vez por el movimiento socialista mundial el 19 de marzo de 1911.

### El Día Internacional de la Mujer cumple 110 años

Clara Zetkin era su latido original, y definitivamente tenía un corazón rojo.

Si bien los avances en la historia humana nunca son producto de una sola persona o líder, sino más bien el resultado de condiciones sociales y materiales que obligan a la intervención de masas de personas, los líderes y sus organizaciones son un producto indispensable de ese proceso.

No pueden separarse de éstos terremotos, ni colocarse por encima o por debajo de él, sino que juegan un papel indispensable para garantizar su éxito. La lucha intensa, en forma de grandes huelgas, protestas en las calles, sentadas en el lugar de trabajo, ocupaciones y, en última instancia, insurrecciones y levantamientos, son el motor del cambio.

En el caso del Día Internacional de la Mujer, se podría llamar a Clara Zetkin la incansable conductora de ese motor.

Durante ese período, las mujeres en Europa y otras partes del mundo estaban saliendo del feudalismo y condiciones de casi esclavitud, donde eran sometidas al abuso sexual, aisladas en sus hogares y aldeas como siervas y campesinas; sólo para ser forzadas a un nuevo tipo de esclavitud, trabajando junto a sus hijos en los brutales talleres del capitalismo.

En estas nuevas condiciones, las mujeres revolucionarias socialistas y comunistas agitaban y organizaron a las trabajadoras para resistir, incluso cuando esto significaba hacerlo en condiciones ilegales sometiéndose a la posibilidad de cárcel y al exilio.

La Primera Guerra Mundial agravó el sufrimiento de formas inimaginables. Trajo muerte y hambre, pero también

resistencia, especialmente por parte de las mujeres.

Si bien la declaración del Día Internacional de la Mujer se hizo en Europa, el objetivo de Zetkin como socialista y comunista revolucionaria era que fuera de alcance internacional, uniendo a las mujeres a través de todas las fronteras.

### Inspiración desde la ciudad de Nueva York

Una de las primeras protestas de mujeres que ayudó a impulsar el movimiento tuvo lugar en los Estados Unidos el 8 de marzo de 1908. Miles de trabajadoras textiles, principalmente inmigrantes, salieron a las calles exigiendo sus derechos.

Esto fue seguido un año más tarde con el "Levantamiento de las 20.000" de 1909, también llamada 'huelga de las camiseras de Nueva York', una huelga de trabajadoras de la aguja que duró tres meses.

### Las mujeres inician una revolución

Pero el inolvidable punto de inflexión que selló el trato fue cuando las mujeres de Rusia iniciaron una revolución.

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Clara Zetkin (izquierda) y Rosa Luxemburg en Magdeburgo, Alemania, 1910. Luxemburg, judía polaca, fue cofundadora con Karl Liebknecht del Partido Comunista de Alemania (KPD).



# el fascismo: una lección para hoy

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El 8 de marzo de 1917, las trabajadoras textiles en huelga se unieron a otras mujeres que atacaban las panaderías por los altos precios del pan en Petrogrado, Rusia. Le imploraron a los soldados que no dispararan sus rifles.

Unos 90.000 manifestantes salieron a las calles exigiendo “paz, tierra y pan”.

Esta fue la salva inicial que derrocó al odiado zar de Rusia y en menos de un año, los trabajadores, campesinos y pobres liderados por el Partido Bolchevique tomaron el poder en noviembre de 1917.

Mientras estaban rodeados y bajo el ataque de las potencias imperialistas, formaron el primer estado obrero socialista. Una de las primeras cosas que hizo la nueva revolución soviética fue reglamentar la igualdad de la mujer.

## Zetkin la teórica, organizadora y activista

Si bien Clara Zetkin dedicó gran parte de su tiempo y esfuerzo a la causa de las mujeres de la clase trabajadora, fue a la vez intelectual y escritora, lo que llamamos teórica, y revolucionaria, hacedora, organizadora y participante.

A veces hubo divisiones y conflictos dolorosos. Zetkin abandonó el Partido Socialista de Alemania en 1916 debido a su posición imperialista a favor de la guerra, y junto a Rosa Luxemburgo ayudó a allanar el camino para la fundación del Partido Comunista de Alemania.

Fue encarcelada repetidamente por oponerse a la Primera Guerra Mundial.

Extraordinariamente, Lenin se reunió con ella para elaborar estrategias sobre la cuestión de la mujer.

## Otra parte de la historia de Clara Zetkin: la lucha contra el racismo

Zetkin se opuso ferozmente al Jim Crow y el linchamiento en el sur de los Estados Unidos.

Desempeñó un papel importante en la creación de apoyo internacional para el caso Scottsboro (1932) de nueve adolescentes negros acusados falsamente de violar a dos mujeres blancas. Fueron declarados culpables y Alabama solicitó la pena de muerte para 8 miembros (el noveno tenía solo 12 años). Si bien finalmente fueron liberados, pasaron años antes de que los adolescentes fueran liberados.

Puede encontrar el llamado de Zetkin, “Save the Scottsboro Black Youth” en “Clara Zetkin: Selected Writings” (Salvemos a los jóvenes negros de Scottsboro, en Escritos selectos de Clara Zetkin) editado por Philip Foner con un prólogo de Angela Davis.

## Zetkin y el golpe de Estado derechista en el Capitolio de EE. UU.

A medida que continuamos discutiendo los eventos del 6 de enero de 2021 en el Capitolio de los Estados Unidos, podemos evaluar y aprender de Clara Zetkin.

Zetkin entendió las causas del fascismo, conectándolo con la decadencia del capitalismo, instando a la unidad socialista y de la clase trabajadora. En lugar de resumirlo mal, les instamos a leer y estudiar el informe de Zetkin presentado el 20 de junio de 1923 a la Internacional Comunista: “La lucha contra el fascismo”.

Los escritos, presentaciones y polémicas de Zetkin no eran abstractas. No tuvo el lujo de mirar atrás, sino que tuvo que escribir en medio de la vorágine. Esto



Clara Zetkin y Nadezhda Krupskaya  
En 1927. Krupskaya, fue un miembro clave de los bolcheviques antes de la Revolución Rusa de 1917, junto con V.I. Lenin

hace que sus contribuciones sean más agudas e incluso extraordinarias.

A la edad de 75 años, gravemente enferma y casi ciega, habló durante una hora en el Parlamento alemán (Reichstag) el 30 de agosto de 1932, mientras los nazis le gritaban amenazándola de muerte.

Cuando Hitler llegó al poder, Zetkin se vio obligada a exiliarse y vivió sus últimos días en la Unión Soviética. Tenía 76 años cuando murió el 20 de junio de 1933.

Clara Zetkin vivió una vida increíble, llena de dificultades y luchas. Sufrió por el asesinato de sus buenos amigos y camaradas Rosa Luxemburg y Karl Liebknecht, pero también fue testigo del nacimiento de la Unión Soviética y vio avances genuinos para las mujeres.

Esta historia real no se puede sepultar bajo tierra.

El corazón rojo de Zetkin permanecerá con nosotros.

# En Puerto Rico defienden su cultura

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profundo conocimiento y aprecio de los mismos”, según reza su misión.

Sin embargo, el nuevo Proyecto intenta por medios legislativos, borrar nuestra historia, convirtiéndolo en una simple herramienta para un supuesto desarrollo económico, incluyendo la posibilidad de destruir o vender piezas y edificios de valor histórico.

Es vergonzoso lo que establecen como

su misión: (y cito) “... aprovechar el patrimonio histórico, cultural y artístico de nuestra Isla como un recurso esencial para el desarrollo económico sostenible. Nuestra cultura, refleja el carácter único de Puerto Rico como parte de los Estados Unidos de América, integrando de manera armoniosa elementos culturales anglosajones con sus raíces indígenas, africanas y europeas.”

Desde luego, ignoran lo que la Corte Suprema gringa afirmó en el 2016, que

PR pertenece a, pero no es parte de los EUA, o sea una colonia.

Pero se les hará difícil porque inmediatamente se ha formado un poderoso frente de lucha, Todo PR con el ICP, con sindicatos, artistas y el pueblo en general que no descansaremos hasta derrotarlo.

Desde Puerto Rico, para Radio  
Clarín de Colombia,  
les habló Berta  
Joubert-Ceci.



# El Pueblo le dice NO al Megaproyecto Esencia

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

En PR existen propuestas por personas capacitadas y expertas en las diversas ciencias que han desarrollado proyectos para la mitigación de los estragos que podrían producirse en nuestro archipiélago por los efectos del cambio climático, pero todas las administraciones que han gobernado hasta ahora han hecho caso omiso a estos estudios. Más aún, han viabilizado la destrucción de los terrenos – sobre todo el costero – mediante permisos ilegales productos de actos de corrupción, que se presentan falsamente como proyectos productivos para la economía.

Uno de estos es el Megaproyecto Esencia en la costa suroeste de la isla, donde se encuentra uno de los atractivos naturales más bellos y diversos ecológicamente, del archipiélago. En el área, hay humedales, salinas, mangles y varios ecosistemas frágiles con una biodiversidad enorme, además de tener acceso directo a las playas. Son más de seis mil metros cuadrados de terreno protegido que intentan convertir en un complejo turístico-residencial para la clase más acaudalada. Constaría entre muchos otros elementos, de hoteles lujosos, campos de golf, más de mil residencias turísticas, escuelas y hasta un aeropuerto privado. Sería como una ciudad cerrada



Uno de estos es el Megaproyecto Esencia en la costa suroeste de la isla, donde se encuentra uno de los atractivos naturales más bellos y diversos ecológicamente, del archipiélago.

para gente rica, mayormente extranjera.

Pero las comunidades impactadas, los colectivos de ambientalistas y el pueblo en general, han forzado celebrar vistas públicas esta semana donde se han dado a conocer estos datos de riesgo no solo en la región, sino en el resto de la isla. Y ha sido el Pueblo, junto a expertos y expertas, organizaciones y residentes quienes a

través de sus ponencias y activismo, han asumido su papel de verdadera gobernanza, intentando detener este crimen social y ambiental. #

Desde Puerto Rico, para Radio Clarín de Colombia, les habló Berta Joubert-Ceci.



## En Puerto Rico defienden su cultura

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

En esta colonia caribeña, se amplía la lucha por la independencia y soberanía al producirse frentes de batalla que enfrentan nuevos ataques contra nuestra propia existencia e identidad como pueblo. Y es que a todas las luchas ya existentes, ahora se suma la de defender nuestra cultura.

Y es que el Partido en el gobierno, dominado por quienes sueñan desde la rama ejecutiva a la legislativa, por anexionar Puerto Rico al imperio estadounidense, han sometido un Proyecto de

Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueño

Ley para destruir el ICP, el Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueño. El ICP desde el 1955, se reorganizó como entidad oficial autónoma, con el propósito de “conservar, promover, enriquecer y divulgar los valores culturales puertorriqueños y lograr el más amplio y



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